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Rewrite the first paragraph to read as follows. A mark-up is included in Appendix A.

(amended) Cross-Reference to Related Application

A1 This is a 371 of PCT/US00/16486, filed June 15, 2000 and published in English on December 21, 2000 as International Publication No. WO 00/77245, which claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/139,569, filed June 16, 1999, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119(e). The entire disclosure of the aforesaid provisional application is incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims:

Rewrite claims 12-15 to read as follows (claims 12-15 are renumbered as 11-14). A mark-up is included as Appendix B.

A2 11. (amended) A method for screening a test substance for COX-2 inhibitory activity comprising:

(a) contacting the test substance with indicator cells which express a GTPase-deficient mutant form of the α -subunit of protein G12, which mutant α -subunit has the capacity to induce the production of arachidonic acid and COX-2 in the indicator cells; and

(b) determining the level of arachidonic acid provided by the indicator cells in the presence and absence of the test substance, an increase in the level of arachidonic acid provided by the indicator cells in the presence of the test substance indicating that the test substance has COX-2 inhibitory activity.

12. (amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the G12 protein α -subunit mutant comprises the Q229L mutation.

13. (amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein the arachidonic acid level is assayed in the media surrounding the indicator cells, in the indicator cells or in a component of the indicator cells.